

AFL Hits May Bill As Ruse For Military Dictatorship

AFL Group Sees FDR And Demands Prompt Breaking Of Wage Freeze

Hines Blasts Forced Labor Plan As Its Defeat Is Predicted

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor blasted compulsory labor legislation at a public hearing before the House Military Affairs Committee as indications multiplied that such legislation is doomed to defeat.

Lewis G. Hines, AFL legislative representative, delivered a two-fronted attack on the pending May Bill at the hearing. He

1—That claims of manpower shortages have been greatly exaggerated.

4-F draft measure, nor a work or-fight bill, but provides for limited compulsory service for all men from 18 to 45.

3—That sub-standard wages in critical war plants are the chief cause of manpower difficulties.

4—That the War and Navy Departments are backing the legislation in order to place the entire nation under military control.

5—That passage of the bill would "demoralize" war production instead of helping it.

Chairman of the Senate War Investigating Committee, announced his opposition to the forced labor bill.

The Senator declared his committee would institute immediate hear-

ings to investigate the high-pressure talk about manpower shortages. High officials of the War Manpower Commission, the War Production Board and the War Department will be

In a recent report, the Mead Committee accused the War Department of wasting manpower by permitting production of huge surpluses of certain types of war equipment which

Hines also charged wastage and hoarding of manpower in war in-

industries. He also flatly declared that out of fourteen war industries where production lags have set in, this condition is due to manpower deficiency in only one. That is the foundry in

industry, where wages are too low to attract workers, he said. The reason for lagging production in the other industries, he said, are changes in design, suddenly stepped-up schedules and lack of facilities.

The War and Navy Departments and the Selective Service System are not competent to do the job of rounding up manpower, Hines stated. He insisted that the responsibility should

"To those who would use force of labor to avoid correcting the cause of manpower shortage, we say: 'The

Meanwhile, business and farm groups continued to assail the "draconian" proposal just as vigorously.

the trade union movement. One of the most bitter attacks on the b... was made by the National Association of Manufacturers.

Five Unions Aid Free Labor Drive

New York City—Substantial gifts from five international unions mark the opening of the AFL's Free Trade Union Fund campaign. The large single contribution is \$5,000, received

Other internationals responding to the call were the Printing Pressmen, Hotel and Restaurant Workers, Pulp, Sulphur

These five organizations have asked their members and affiliates to generously support the Fund. Mo-

The Free Trade Union Committee of the Labor League for Human Rights

Proceeds from the campaign will be used to help rebuild and strengthen the organized labor movement.

Europe, Asia, Central and South America.

GO UNIONS QUIT,
CHARGING COMMUNISM

Baltimore, Md.—Three CIO unions have quit the CIO Maryland District of Columbia Industrial Union Group, all charging that the central body

The organisations that withdrew from affiliation include the Maritime and Shipbuilding Workers' Local 3.